ELY

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

For the Year 1894.

BY

BUSHELL ANNINGSON, M.D., M.A.,

University Lecturer in Medical Jurisprudence,
Fellow Sanitary Institute, Associate King's
College, London, &c. &c.

Medical Officer of Health.

Cambridge:

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REPORT.

I beg leave to communicate for the information of the Rural District Council my sanitary report for the year 1894.

The total number of deaths which have been registered is 171, but this number must be corrected by the addition of deaths of persons belonging to the district which have occurred outside its boundary, viz.: in the Workhouse (situate within the urban district of the City of Ely) 12; in the County Asylum, at Fulbourn, 4; in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, 3; making a corrected total of 190, which on the census return of 1891 gives an annual death-rate of 14·8 per thousand living. Vital Statistics. Death-rate.

The total number of births registered is 327, equal to a birth-rate of 25·6 per thousand living per annum. Birth-rate.

The ratio of deaths under one year of age to 1000 registered births is 100. Infantile Mortality.

The deaths registered as due to zymotic disease are:—from diphtheria 6; typhoid fever 1; diarrhœa 2; whooping cough 2; total 11; equal to an annual death rate per thousand from these diseases of 0·85. Iufluenza has caused three deaths, two in Littleport, and one in Downham. Zymotic Disease.

In making my usual comparison of the vital statistics of the several registration sub-districts, I am once again enabled to separate Downham from Littleport, from information derived from

the census return, and from statistical information supplied to me by the sub-district Registrar. The deaths which properly belong to each district are after distribution as follows :—

Sub-District.		Share of Workhouse.	Asylum.	Addenbrooke's Hospital.	Registered Deaths.	Total.
Haddenham	...	2	1	2	36	41
Sutton	...	2	3	...	46	51
Littleport	...	4	...	1	68	73
Downham	...	4	...	...	21	25
Entire District	...	12	4	3	171	190

Sub-District Death-rate and Birth-rate.

The death-rate and birth-rate of Haddenham are respectively 11·8 and 26·4; those of the other divisions are respectively, Sutton 15·7 and 24·6; Littleport 17·2 and 25·7; Downham 13·3 and 25·6.

It will be observed from the above figures that the death-rate has increased in all the sub-districts, except in the Haddenham sub-district, where, indeed, in 1893 it had sensibly declined. The increase is due mainly to diphtheria and diseases of the respiratory organs at all ages. There has also been an increase of infantile mortality. The general death-rate for England and Wales is stated by the Registrar General to be the lowest on record, viz., 16·6.

DISEASE INCIDENCE AND MEASURES TAKEN TO ARREST ITS SPREAD.

Disease Incidence. Scarlatina.

In regard to disease incidence, scarlatina has been much less prevalent than it was in the year 1893, only sixteen cases having been notified as compared with sixty-eight of that year; one case occurred at Sutton in September, the origin of which could not be traced; two at Littleport (one at Beaconsfield Terrace, early in June, and one in Wisbech Road, in October). The first was in a household where there had not been a case for four years, and no connection with any antecedent case could be traced. It transpired

however, that in the house adjoining, some members of a company of strolling actors were lodging, with whom there may have been some inter-communication in the back yard. An interview with these people led to no definite information, but it is of course possible they may have been carrying infection about in their clothing. Through the kindness of Mr. Peacock the patient was removed to the Stanley House Cottage Hospital. The case in the Wisbech Road was that of a youth who had been taken ill of the disease at Littleport Fen, and immediately afterwards had come on a visit to his grandparents in the village of Littleport.

At Wilburton, in the Haddenham sub-district, thirteen cases of scarlet fever have been notified in three households between September 9th and 28th. The first appeared at a household in Wilburton Fen, where six cases in all occurred in succession. It appeared on enquiry that the disease had been introduced into the family by strangers who had been engaged to do harvest work. The disease appeared (Sept. 14), at Victoria Place, in the main village, but the introduction of the disease could not at first be satisfactorily accounted for; afterwards it was ascertained that an adult member of the family, who was the fourth case notified, was desquamating when first seen by a medical man, and had been working as a labourer at the household first assailed in Wilburton Fen, and there is little doubt that he was the agent in the conveyance of the disease. The disease afterwards appeared in a neighbouring household in the same terrace, and was no doubt contracted from one of those just mentioned.

Typhoid Fever.

In regard to typhoid fever, four cases have been notified; the first (Feb. 22) at Mepal Bridge, that of a man who had contracted the disease a little while after his coming to lodge in the house of his married sister. The only antecedent case with which there might have been any connection was that of the sister in question, who had had the disease at this house in the previous year; her excreta had been in the first instance put into the privy vault, and subsequently on to the garden ground adjacent. It is of course uncertain whether the subsequent cropping of the garden

or percolation from the soil into the river, the water of which the man was stated to have consumed in large quantities, had any direct relation with the present case, but the fact seems worthy of consideration. On the 22nd Nov. a case occurred at River Bank, Sandhill, Littleport; a young lad, who was the subject of the attack, had his work away from home, and took his meals with him, but there is a history of his drinking water from the river, which is used by the household without previous boiling; it may also be mentioned in this connection that other cases of typhoid fever have occurred from time to time along the river bank in the immediate neighbourhood.

On the 24th Dec. a case occurred at Ten-Mile Bank, Littleport Fen, and this was in all probability attributable to the consumption of river water.

On 7th Dec. a case, which proved fatal, occurred at Cannon Street, Downham, which could not be accounted for.

Diphtheria.

A serious outbreak of diphtheria occurred at Sutton, and continued from June 1 to Sept. 1 without intermition, except during the month of August; twenty-two cases in all were notified, of which six proved fatal. The larger number of the cases occurred in the neighbourhood of the Lanes where the sanitary conditions are especially bad, following almost along the same course as in the year 1892, when nine cases of diphtheria and two of membranous croup occurred. In reference to the outbreak of the year 1892, I called the attention of the Authority especially to the unsatisfactory character of the drainage of the village of Sutton in general, and of these lanes in particular. (*See Report, Nov. 1892.*) Many of the cases of the latter epidemic could be traced to direct infection from others, and, moreover, there was a history communicated to me by the District Medical Officer, of ill-defined throat disease for some time previous to the outbreak of diphtheria. The sanitary conditions of the school premises were found to be extremely defective, and special reports made with regard to them; the schools were closed, and isolation of affected

persons provided for as far as possible, and subsequent disinfection of houses after the termination of each case, were the precautionary measures adopted. Although school assemblage was no doubt in in both epidemics an important factor in the spread of the disease, none the less the sanitary condition of the part of the village assailed on both occasions exercised a profound aggravating influence on the character of the outbreak, and demands the early and serious attention of the Rural District Council.

One case was notified (July 1) at Witcham. There was frequent trade relationship between the patient's family and the adjacent village of Sutton; and there is a great probability of the disease having been imported from the latter place.

Eight cases in five families occurred at Witchford, three in January, three in October, one in November, and one in December; the three cases in January occurred in one week, and may have had some connection with a village festivity; moreover, there was a family tendency to the disease. The sanitary conditions of the house were bad, and the drinking water was obtained from a ditch liable to befoulment from house refuse. The four cases which occurred in October and November were all members of one family; they were, however, on the same line of street, and obtained water from the same ditch as the household assailed in January. The last case (Dec. 31) occurred in a house which was in a very bad sanitary condition, but no connection with any antecedent cases could be traced. I have repeatedly called the attention of the Authority to the need of a proper supply of water for the part of the village where the houses assailed are situated.

At Downham, two cases were notified during August in one family in Cannon Street, and another case at First Drove in December, but no satisfactory causes of their occurrence were forthcoming.

A case occurred at Sandhill, Littleport (26 Oct.); the sanitary condition of the house was bad, and the top soil of the garden adjacent was saturated with organic filth. Rain water and river

water was used for drinking purposes, but no connection with any other case, recent or remote, could be established.

School closure and particular school exclusion and thorough disinfection after each case, under the superintendence of the Inspector, were the precautionary measures adopted in all the above instances.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water Supply.

A petition has been presented to the Authority from the inhabitants of Green End, Stretham, asking to be supplied with water for drinking purposes. The petition was considered by the Authority, and the Inspector of Nuisances instructed to write to the Parish Officers, asking them to call a meeting to consider the question, and report to the Authority. A meeting of the Parish Officers was held, and they appointed a committee to consider the question, but no report has yet been presented. I may repeat what I have already stated in previous reports, "that a supply of water could be obtained for the whole village from the large patch of Lower green sand on the north side of the village." The line of demarcation between the Lower green sand and Kimeridge clay passes right through the village from east to west.

A petition has also been presented to the Authority from the inhabitants of West End, Witchford, asking to be supplied with water for drinking purposes, and referred to the Parish for consideration and report. Accordingly a meeting of the Parish Officers was held, which the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances attended, and a committee appointed to select a suitable spot for a public well; and the matter is still pending. I may here advert to my remarks above on diphtheria incidence at this village.

At Black Horse Drove, Littleport, a new filter, with polarite, has been completed.

The water supply at Quay Hill is still very unsatisfactory, and requires the early attention of the District Council.

I have to repeat my recommendation for a better supply of water for the centre of the village of Sutton.

The parish pumps throughout the district have been painted and the following notices painted on them :—"For drinking and domestic purposes only." The wells have been cleaned out at the following places :—Stretham, Haddenham, Wentworth, Downham and Thetford.

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS.

At Littleport a length of 3 chains of 6 in. pipes for sewer extension have been laid at Victoria Street and all private drains along the line of sewer have been properly connected. Drainage.

In consequence of complaints as to the flooding of the High Street, in the neighbourhood of Beaconsfield Terrace, a report by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself was communicated to the Authority, and a committee of the District Council was summoned to meet at Littleport, to consider the suggestions made. The committee decided to recommend that, in order to prevent the heading up of the storm water and to give better facilities for escape, at this part of the system, to disconnect the 9-in. sewer at its junction with that from the Ely Road, and carry it as a separate sewer to the outfall, and to lay a new 15-in. sewer, with inspection chambers, in place of the present old brick culvert, which used to receive the sewage from both sides of the village. The Inspector has been instructed to take levels and obtain specifications, in order to carry the resolution into effect.

At Haddenham, under the supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances, the sewer in High Street has been thoroughly examined, and two inspection chambers have been made, and act satisfactorily.

With regard to the question of drainage works I have to advert to my remarks under the head of disease incidence, to the urgent need of a better system of drainage for the village of Sutton.

DILAPIDATED AND UNHEALTHY HOUSES.

Dilapidated and Unhealthy Houses.

At Littleport, a dilapidated house in Silt Road has been closed. In regard to four houses at Little Lane which were reported by myself under section 32 of the Housing of the Working Classes' Act, the Authority decided to apply for a closing order; but in the meantime, the property has changed hands with view to alterations, which renders further official action unnecessary.

A house in Bell's Drove, reported in the year previous as unfit for human habitation, has been reported again during the year, under review, with a recommendation, owing to unwillingness of the tenant to vacate the dwelling, to obtain a demolition order from the Justices.

Seven or eight houses along Sow Drove, whose curtilage abut upon a drain separating them from lands in the occupation of Mr. Mott, have been reported by me as causing unnecessary befoulment of the drain by slop water and excrement matter.

The houses at Wilburton reported as requiring the immediate attention of the Sanitary Authority have been closed.

A house at Bury Green, Stretham, has been reported. A magistrate's order was obtained to close it within seven days, and this order was forthwith obeyed.

Sanitary defects reported at the Public Hall, Littleport, are being satisfactorily dealt with during the current year.

OVERCROWDING.

Overcrowding.

Four nuisances from overcrowding, one at Stretham and Sutton respectively, and two at Littleport, have been satisfactorily abated. With regard to the case at Sutton, apart from the

TABLE A.

Table of Deaths during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of Ely; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Registration Sub-Districts.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																								
													Fevers.																		
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upward		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	English Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Other Diseases.	Cancer.	Influenza.	Pyæmia.	Total.
	(b.)	(c.)	(d.)	(e.)	(f.)	(g.)	(h.)	(i.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	21a.	21b.	21c.	22
Haddenham ..	36	8	2	...	3	7	16	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	4	...	...	...	10
								5 upwds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	9	—	10	1	—	—	26
Sutton ..	46	8	3	4	3	12	16	Under 5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	...	11
								5 upwds.	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	2	8	2	12	1	—	—	35
Littleport ..	68	12	7	2	7	10	30	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	2	13	...	...	...	19
								5 upwds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	8	4	—	24	3	2	—	49
Downham ..	21	5	1	1	1	2	11	Under 5	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	6
								5 upwds.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	1	4	1	1	—	15
	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
								5 upwds.	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..
									—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	...	...	...	..	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..
									—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	..	...	...	...	..
									—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	171	33	13	7	14	31	73	Under 5	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	10	...	4	27	...	...	...	46
								5 upwds.	—	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	14	15	25	3	50	6	3	—	125

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside district among persons belonging thereto.																																	
Union Workhouse.	12	...	..	...	1	1	10	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
								5 upwds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	8	1	—	—	12
Addenbrooke's Hospl.	3	...	...	...	..	2	1	Under 5	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								5 upwds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fulbourn Asylum.	4	...	...	...	...	2	2	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	—	1	1	—	—	3
								5 upwds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4

TABLE B.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Rural Sanitary District of Ely; classified according to DISEASES, AGES *and* LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages. Census 1891.	Registered Births.		New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
								Fevers.												Fevers.									
				Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	English Cholera.	Erysipelas.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas		
(a.)	(b)	(c.)	(d.)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Haddenham ..	3447	91	Under 5	..	2	...	..	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			5 upwards	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sutton ..	3248	80	Under 5	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			5 upwards	..	1	28	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Littleport ..	4239	107	Under 5	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			5 upwards	..	2	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Downham ..	1873	49	Under 5	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..
			5 upwards	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	12807	327	Under 5	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			5 upwards	..	14	32	..	..	4	..	..	1	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

NOTE.—"Notification of Infectious Disease" has been compulsory in the District since 1st August, 1890. There is no Isolation Hospital for the use of the District.

nuisance of overcrowding, I was of opinion that the sleeping apartment occupied by the family was unsuitable.

Appended hereto are the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board and the table of the sanitary work done by the Inspector of Nuisances.

BUSHELL ANNINGSON.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1894.

		1894.
1.	Accumulations of filth removed	83
2.	Houses in a bad state of repair reported and in most instances satisfactorily dealt with	32
3.	Yards to dwellings in an offensive state cleaned ...	44
4.	Privy nuisances, foul, &c. remedied	78
5.	Privies new, and removed, vault filled up and converted into earth closets.	39
6.	Animals kept in an offensive state removed ..	38
7.	Overcrowding, cases of, abated	4
8.	Water supply deficient and impure, &c.	2
9.	Samples of water taken to County Analyst... ...	0
10.	Wells closed	0
11.	Cases of infectious and contagious diseases visited and supplied with disinfectants	61
12.	Schools closed—Sutton and Pymore	4
13.	Houses disinfected by Inspector	36
14.	Drainage nuisances; drains repaired and new supplied	88
15.	Foul ditches cleaned out, ...	41
16.	New gulleys to drains	38
17.	Street drains trapped	15
18.	Parish ponds cleaned out	10
19.	New parish pumps	1
20.	Parish pumps repaired	19
21.	New houses erected	11
22.	Certificates granted under sec. 6 of Public Health (Water) Act 1878	11
23.	Lodging houses registered	1
	Bakehouses, slaughterhouses, visited	all throughout district
	Holmes lode, water supply	cleared
	Black Bank sewer drains	roded twice
	New slaughterhouses	0

New Sewer—

3 chains 6 in. Victoria Street, Littleport.

2 new taps, and main repaired, Aldreth Water Service.

Black Horse Drove, 10 Mile Bank, a new filter, well, and reservoir, charged with polarite.

WM. GREEN,

Inspector of Nuisances.